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FLOOR DEBATE

April 15, 2004 LB 439, 439A, 485, 485A, 499, 559, 559A, 613
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LB 1065, LB 1084, LB 1084A, LB 1097, LB 1097A, LB 1207;
Legislative Journal page 1692.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Speaker Bromm, did you wish to be recognized?

SPEAKER BROMM: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I think we take for granted around here a lot of times how work gets done behind the scenes to accomplish what happens in a session. The Legislature Council, which is you, has about 250 employees that do many tasks without our taking the time to notice or say thanks, and I want to take this time to point out what some of their roles are, and some of their duties, and ask for your support in expressing our appreciation to them for all of the work that they've done. Most visible employees are our Clerk, Patrick O'Donnell, and his staff that we see in front of us each day: Assistant Clerk Dick Brown, Carol Koranda, Diana Bridges, and Vicki Buck. Also, there are many other employees in the Clerk's Office that we don't see on a day-to-day business, but they're certainly doing many things to help us. The amount of recordkeeping they do, the way they facilitate our session is very, very effective and very efficient. I'd like to take this opportunity for all of us to say thank you to them. (Applause) A division of the Clerk's Office that we do not see, but they're busily working every day to keep an historical record of every word...that's scary, isn't it...that we speak on the floor and in committee is the Transcribers Office. Let's express our thanks to them as well. (Applause) Other staff that are in the Chamber each day to help us are Sergeant at Arms and the Pages and Kitty. Ron, and Sally, and the gang, and Kitty, and the Pages, we thank you. Let's show them how much we appreciate them. (Applause) With the emphasis on the budget, not only this session but the last about three years and the extreme difficulties there, our Fiscal Office, led by Mike Calvert and Tom Bergquist and all the individual analysts have certainly more than earned their pay. I'm sorry we have to cut it again, Mike, but we (laughter) we appreciate your hard work, and it's often on the weekends. I came in here not that long ago. I had to stop by here Sunday afternoon at 4:30 and who do I meet but